

# WEST LAFAYETTE POLICE MERIT COMMISSION MINUTES

December 10, 2007

The West Lafayette Police Merit Commission met in regular session at City Hall Council Chambers on December 10, 2007 at 7:30 pm. In compliance with the Indiana Open Door Law, notice of this regular meeting was sent to the media and posted. Copies of the meeting agenda and unapproved minutes of the November 12, 2007 Regular Meeting were available on a table adjacent to the entrance to the Council Chambers.

Police Merit Commission President Polles called the meeting to order and presided.

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

PRESENT: Commissioners Don Corrigan, Larry Leverenz, Virginia Nead, John Polles and Joel Weber.

ALSO PRESENT: Commission Counsel pro tempore Joe Bumbleburg, one member of the West Lafayette Police Department, and one member of the public. No members of the media were present.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Commissioner Corrigan moved "to approve of the meeting minutes of 12 November 2007." The motion was unanimously adopted.

## OLD BUSINESS

- A. Commissioner Leverenz led a discussion as to how the weights for the criminal background check for applicants for the Eligibility List should be allocated. He had talked with Deputy Chief Walker about typical items that might show up on the criminal background check and concluded that it was not practical to list all items in the criminal code and assign values to each one. In addition, in applying mitigation and extenuation, judgment must be used to evaluate at what point in life any errors occurred. It was decided to defer further discussion of the topic.
- B. Commission President Polles provided an update on the new contract with Dr. James LeBreton for promotional test bank maintenance and examination preparation. He had been provided a breakdown of the hours spent on examination preparation for examinations that have been given and, in discussion with Dr. LeBreton, determined that \$2,000 would be fair compensation for work already performed.

Commissioner Weber moved "that an amount of \$2,000.00 be paid to James LeBreton for work performed over the last two years related to the promotion examinations that were given over that period." The motion was unanimously passed.

A proposed consulting contract was reviewed and editorial changes identified. Commissioner Leverenz moved that “we accept and enter into the contract as corrected.” The motion was unanimously passed.

- C. Commission President Polles reported there were 9 new applicants to be interviewed by the Commission on Wednesday, December 12, 2007. The Commission was scheduled to meet in Executive Session at 8:30 am to conduct the interviews, with the first interview scheduled for 9:00 am. In that the first scheduled interviewee was found to be not qualified due to insufficient college credits, Commissioner Nead recommended that the Commission meet at 9:00 am. All Commissioners concurred with the recommendation.
- D. Commission President Polles reported that the last named applicant has been approved by the Local Pension Board and PERF. He is scheduled to begin employment as a West Lafayette Police Officer on Monday, January 7, 2008.
- E. Commissioner Weber reported that two questions had been challenged on the most recent Sergeant’s examination given on November 3, 2007. One of the two challenged questions had an incorrect answer identified as the correct answer on the answer key, and that the answer key was correct for the other question. The revised answer resulted in 1 examination score being raised, 3 examination scores being lowered, and 8 examination scores remaining unchanged. Corrections for these examination scores have been applied to the examination spreadsheet. Commission President Polles reported that letters were mailed to the affected officers informing them of their revised score on the examination.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- A. Commissioner Weber discussed the need for annual changes to the West Lafayette Police Department Standard Operating Procedures be provided to the Industrial Psychology group that maintains the examination question bank. He asked that they be added to the distribution list for the document.
- B. A list of proposed dates for 2008 Police Merit Commission regular meetings was distributed. Commissioner Weber moved “to make our 2008 meetings on the second Monday of every month as the Rules and Regulations say.” The motion was unanimously passed.
- C. Commission President Polles requested that Commissioners who were up for reappointment contact their appointing organization so that Commission composition for 2008 could be determined by the date of the next regular meeting, January 14, 2008.

#### ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

- A. Commission President Polles drew the Commission’s attention to a December 10, 2007 front page article in the Journal & Courier entitled, “Law officers put seized assets to work for them.” Although the West Lafayette Police Department was not mentioned in

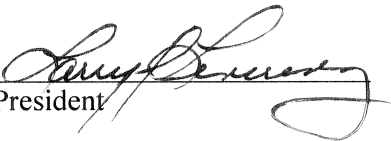
the article, Commission President Polles reported that West Lafayette would be getting another drug dog in the near future as a result of the program described in the article.

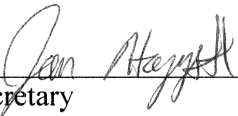
PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.

  
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President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

Meeting Agenda, 10 December 2007  
7:30 P.M., Council Chambers, City Hall

**Opening**

Pledge of Allegiance  
Roll Call  
Approval of Minutes for Meeting on 12 November 2007

**Old Business**

(Re: Article II.D. (4) for scoring applicants for the Eligibility List) Discussion of the procedures to be used in scoring applicants (Commissioner Leverenz)  
Discussion of a new contract with Industrial Psychology Department of Purdue University promotion tests preparation (Commissioners Polles)  
Update on new applicants (Polles)  
Update on the last named applicant and the meeting of the Local Pension Board (Polles)  
Update of Sergeant Exam test questions (Commissioner Weber)

**New Business**

Keeping exam source documents current (Weber)  
Setting the meeting dates for CY2008 (Weber)  
Commission composition for CY2008 (Polles)

**Items from the Floor**

**Public Comments**

**Adjournment**